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WHANGANUI
RURAL
COMMUNITY
BOARD

Newsletter of the **Whanganui Rural Community Board** – June 2022

Digital survey highlights our rural digital inequities

The digital survey on household connectivity and people's level of digital confidence in Whanganui held earlier this year has confirmed the difficulties the district's rural residents continue to have with accessing digital services. Whanganui Rural Community Board members were instrumental in distributing the survey to the rural community.

Of 143 rural household responses received, the Kai Iwi subdivision featured prominently. Whanganui District Council's connected community advisor, Jo Buckingham, who initiated the survey, says the Kai Iwi response reflected "the impact low connectivity has on this community".

Rural Community Board chair, Peter Oskam, says "Digital communication has replaced the rural community hall as a way for communities and individuals to connect. Good internet connection helps neighbours stay in touch, is essential to health and safety and helps give a community its identity."

The digital survey results will contribute to continuing advocacy from the Rural Community Board and Whanganui District Council for improved internet and smartphone access for our district's rural residents. It's important to share your connectivity issues – contact your board member or email Jo Buckingham at: digital@whanganui.govt.nz or call her on **06 349 3021**.

Have your say on Whanganui's rural parks and reserves

Whanganui District Council's draft Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy proposes there should be (neighbourhood) reserves within 5km of all our district's rural communities.

The council would love feedback from our rural community about this proposal along with your views on all of our district's open spaces. The new strategy is about creating vibrant open spaces that support health and wellbeing, promote physical activity and play, and protect our district's unique natural environment and historic sites.

You can give us your input via hard copy or online. For more details, please visit: www.whanganui.govt.nz/open-spaces
Submissions now close at **midnight on Sunday, 19 June 2022**.



YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

The Whanganui Rural Community Board is elected by the district's rural community to represent and advocate for local rural issues.



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The Whanganui Rural Community Board's newly expanded **Rural Community Grant Fund** is open for rural community-based projects as well as funding help with rural security cameras. Apply for grants of up to \$1000 at: www.whanganui.govt.nz/WRCB